

Lisa Rutherford 09/27/16 HCAC Public Comments

2017 Draft Budget and \$2.9 Million Education Center

I support the idea of educating the public about the Reserve as directed in the HCP. The outreach staff position Administrator Chamberlain's draft 2017 budget includes is a worthy idea to interact with the public. What I don't support is the idea of spending money unnecessarily under the guise of education. *As a taxpayer and supporter of the Reserve, I am very concerned about the proposed \$2.9 million for a new education facility - an amount nearly equal to the HCP yearly budgets during 2015 and 2016.* This amount only includes the building and furnishing costs according to Lynn Chamberlain's 9/20 meeting comments. What will the O&M costs be? What will the property cost be now that we know from today's meeting that cost is not included in the \$2.9 million either? How much more could be done with \$2.9 plus O&M costs to actually benefit the Reserve?

The idea of putting large amounts of tax dollars into a building while other efforts will be left undone that actually work to preserve the habitat and the animals seems not in keeping with the HCP direction. We already know there are needs that aren't getting the funds they may need. For example, "human impacts monitoring" funding has gone down from 2015 but presentations made in these meetings and meeting minutes show that impacts are in some cases increasing and as growth occurs surely will. This ties into education but that does not mean a building is the only or best way to deal with that education. Fire issues are also a financial unknown. We may have dodged the bullet this year but what about future?

This does not seem to be thinking outside the box which I heard mentioned frequently at the September 20, 2016 HCAC work meeting. It is just more of the same building mentality that we see when the economy rebounds, governments feel flush and government growth occurs. When government grows it rarely retreats. That is true at the federal level and apparently at the local level, too.

Why can't the HCP education facility be housed in the new proposed county building? I know that St. Geo City wants to make use of the land they have up on Red Hills Parkway but it is not the purpose of the HCP to help cities make use of their undeveloped properties.

Kirk Willey Diamond Valley Access Road Proposal

As for the proposal by Kirk Willey for a Diamond Valley access road through the Reserve near Hwy 18, although this is a small area of the Reserve, it sets a very bad precedent to allow a private citizen to build a road through the area. How will this be mitigated? We've seen his offerings today, but is that appropriate is the question? Is the road really needed? Are we sure that Mr. Willey will build the high-density development he's proposed and that apparently requires the road, or will Mr. Willey get his way and then decide to do a low-

density development with a nice extra road that would surely up the value of his properties? As noted, this sets a very bad precedent for incremental chipping away at the Reserve which was not intended for private development. He should be held to building a lower density development that does not require an extra road. That way he is still allowed to develop his property but in keeping with what's right for the Reserve.

This seems to be setting a precedent for a Northern Corridor through the Reserve/NCA if approved, and I strongly oppose the Northern Corridor.